

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 9-11, 13 and 14 remain pending in this application. Claim 9 has been amended to clarify the features of the present invention and claim 11 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Support for the amendment to claim 9 can be found, for example, in Figure 7 of the present application. For the reasons stated below, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 9-11, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. To the extent this rejection might still be applied to claims presently pending in this application, it is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have hereby amended claim 9 to recite a method that comprises providing a concave portion or a concavo-convex portion on the surface of said plating layers (as opposed to the base) by laser marking which penetrates the mask. This feature is clearly supported by the present application (e.g., Figure 7). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §112 rejection and further request consideration of the pending claims with respect to any relevant prior art.

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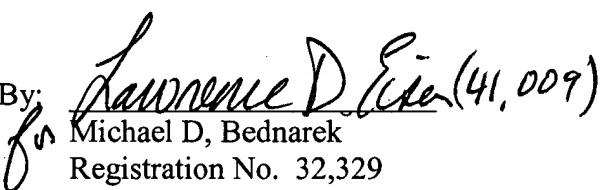
Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Date: January 7, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments:

MDB/LDE/ggb